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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/667,904	09/16/2003	Kevin L. Corcoran	021919-001010US	8197
20350	7590	12/08/2004	EXAMINER	
TOWNSEND AND TOWNSEND AND CREW, LLP			YAN, REN LUO	
TWO EMBARCADERO CENTER			ART UNIT	
EIGHTH FLOOR			PAPER NUMBER	
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94111-3834			2854	

DATE MAILED: 12/08/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/667,904

Applicant(s)

CORCORAN ET AL.

Examiner

Ren L Yan

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 October 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

### DETAILED ACTION

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 2 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hough(2,029,567). The patent to Hough teaches the detailed structure of an embossing system as claimed including a sleeve have a first part 16 and second part 17, a stencil 20(female die) disposed between the first and second part, and a form 18(male die) disposed between the stencil 20 and the second part 17. See Figs. 1-5 and the entire specification of Hough for details. Regarding claim 2, embossing material 19 is placed in between the form 18 and the stencil 20 as shown in Figs. 4 and 5 so as to be embossed. Regarding claim 6, the stencil 20 of Hough is made of metal as recited.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 3, 5, 8, 9, 12 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hirano(5,722,319) in view of Hough. The patent to Hirano teaches the method and system of an embossing apparatus as claimed including a sleeve or a force transfer assembly having a

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first part and a second part, or a first cover 341 and second cover 342, an embossing die pair with male die 320 and female die 310 positioned between the first cover and the second cover so as to sandwich an embossing material X therebetween to enable an image pattern to be embossed on the embossing material X when the embossing system is placed on a die press. The first cover and the second cover are connected by a hinge 343 for being folded over and the pair of die plates 310 and 320 are held to their respective first and second covers 341 and 342 by Velcro adhesive material or indentation/projection connecting means 351 and 352. See Figs. 24-27 and column 9, line 66 through column 10, line 37 in Hirano for details. However, the female die plates 310 Hirano may not be considered as a stencil as recited. The patent to Hough teaches an embossing system for embossing articles the conventional use of a stencil 20 having perforations thereon to define an embossing pattern to be mated with the embossing pattern on the male die 18. See Figs. 1-5 in Hough for example. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide the embossing system of Hirano with the stencil and form pair as taught by Hough in order to create a more defined embossed design on the embossing material. With respect to claim 12, see Fig. 26 in Hirano for the recited clearance.

Claims 4, 10, 11 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hirano in view of Hough as applied to claims 3 and 9 above, and further in view of McLaughlin et al(4,979,613). Hirano, as modified by Hough teaches all that is claimed except for the use of static vinyl to attach the form to the cover member. McLaughlin et al teach the conventionality of using high static vinyl material as the fastening element to releasably attach article surfaces together so that the article surfaces are capable of being repeatedly fastened, separated, and refastened. See column 3, lines 12-45 in McLaughlin et al for example. In view of the teaching

of McLaughlin et al, it would have been obvious to those having ordinary skill in the art to provide the embossing system of Hirano, as modified by Hough with the high static vinyl material as the fastening means to releasably attach the stencil and the form to their respective covers so as to achieve a simple and effective way to repeatedly attach and detach the stencil and form to suit various embossing and decorating tasks.

Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hough in view of Kokrhanek(4,542,691). The patent to Hough teaches all that is claimed except for the form(male die) being made of a plastic material. Kokrhanek teaches an embossing system for embossing various articles including the use of a stencil 25 and a form 28 in that the form 28 is made of a plastic material. See column 3, lines 14-19 in Kokrhanek for example. In view of the teaching of Kokrhanek, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide the embossing system of Hough with a form made of a plastic material so as to reduce the cost of manufacturing the form.

Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hirano in view of Hough as applied to claim 9 above, and further in view of Fuqua et al(5,188,026). Hirano, as modified by Hough teaches all that is claimed except for the use of apertures on the force transfer assembly to be engaged with pins on a die press. Fuqua et al teach a pin register system for screen printers the conventional use of apertures 106 and 108 on a screen frame 50 to be engaged with register pins 56 and 194 on the printer when the screen frame 50 is placed onto the printer in order to accurately align the screen frames relative to one another and to the printer. See Figs. 7-20 and claim 3 in Fuqua et al for example. In view of the teaching of Fuqua et al, it would have been obvious to those having ordinary skill in the art to provide the force transfer

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assembly of Hirano, as modified by Hough with apertures to be engaged with pins on a die press in order to accurately align the force transfer assembly relative to the die press each time the force transfer assembly is mounted onto the die press.

Claims 14-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hirano in view of Hough as applied to claim 9 above, and further in view of Meth(5,590,910). Hirano, as modified by Hough teaches all that is claimed except for the various hinge material as recited and the hinge is not a reduced thickness area joining the first and second covers. Meth teaches different types of hinges to be used in a clipboard device that allow two members 40 and 51 to pivot relative to each other. Meth in column 3, lines 49-60 teaches various conventional hinge materials such as clear-plastic hinges, strong tape material, etc. Meth also teaches in Fig. 7 hinge 46 to be a reduced thickness area joining the two members 40 and 51. In view of the teaching of Meth, it would have been obvious to those having ordinary skill in the art to provide the first and second covers of Hirano, as modified by Hough with the various known hinge materials as taught by Meth as obvious mechanical alternatives to achieve the same pivotal function of the covers and to provide the hinge with a reduced thickness area so as to facilitate the pivotal movement of the covers. With respect to claims 20 and 21, the recited clearance is clearly shown in Fig. 26 of Hirano.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ren L Yan whose telephone number is 571-272-2173. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Hirshfeld can be reached on 571-272-2168. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ren Yan", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ren L Yan  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 2854

Ren Yan  
Dec. 6, 2004